

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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February 17, 1999 LB 436, 566

waives closing. We are voting on the advancement of LB 436. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 436.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: LB 436 advances. Next item.

CLERK: LB 566, Mr. President, by Senator Schrock. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 19, referred to Natural Resources, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Schrock, you're recognized to open on the bill.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, LB 566 was brought to us by the Nebraska Public Power District and the committee amendment was brought to us by the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska. LB 566 removes the requirement for sealed bids on equipment that is technologically complex or unique. It would require an engineer's certification that such equipment meets the board's criteria for technologically complex or unique. The engineer must also certify that it would be impractical and not in the public's interest to have such a contract for this type of equipment. It also requires a two-thirds vote of the board and other...and for other requirements which are identical requirements that must be met when dealing with radioactive material. The bill also allows for the purchase of used equipment and materials on an negotiated basis, without advertising or sealed bidding, upon certification by an engineer that such equipment is of such materials are in compliance with the standards set by the board. This, again, requires the board approval. At the present time, anything that is purchased over \$100,000 has to be bid upon and they are finding that they don't have people willing to bid on these items, and they believe that a lot of these items are costing us...costing them more money than necessary and they believe that this requirement would reduce the cost for the public power districts and, hence, would reduce the cost for the public.